

Title:

Uswayford, Alwinton, Northumberland (cf. SED Thropton)

Shelfmark:

C900/11027

Description:

Neil remembers the isolation of the family farm he grew up on in Uswayford on the fells above Alwinton. He describes how provisions were delivered to such a remote location and the measures taken to prepare for the possibility of being cut off in winter. He speaks admiringly of his mother cooking for such a large household. Windyhaugh is a hamlet in the Usway valley and Wooler a town to the northeast.

Lexis:

aye = yes; *burn* = stream; *forbye* = not to mention, let alone; *mam* = mother (term of endearment); *eldest* = oldest; *hissself* = himself; *broth* = liquid in which meat has been boiled

Phonology:

/r/ → [r/ ~ R] (“Northumbrian burr”); very occasional glottal reinforcement of /p, t/

PRICE [EI]; FACE [e: > e@]; GOAT [8:]; letter [a]

<-ook> → [Y:k]

note also *one* [wQn], *our* [w@], *startED* [stA:t@d], *loaves* [l8:fs], *scones* [skQnz], *nothing* [nQT@n], *1947* [nEInti:nfO:?tIsEv@n] and *year* [jE@]

Grammar:

there was + plural complement (*there was three different routes; there was three hired shepherds; there was the five children*)

past participle *came* (*the way we've came with the car*)

zero plural marker on noun (*two pound of sugar*); plural *loafs*

third person plural *was* (*the groceries was delivered*)

determiner, *those* → *them* (*in them days*)

note also use and phonetic quality of utterance final discourse marker *you know* [j@ na:]